New Diabetes Compound AVE0010 Showed Clear Dose Response Results With Once-A-Day Injection in Phase IIb Study

- Results Presented at the ADA's Annual Scientific Sessions -

Paris, France, June 7, 2008 - Sanofi-aventis announced today that the results of the dose-finding study for its new injectable diabetes compound AVE0010, a GLP-1 agonist, were presented at the American Diabetes Association’s (ADA) 68th Annual Scientific Sessions meeting in San Francisco, California.

The study found that AVE0010 was well tolerated and significantly improved glycemic control versus placebo in type 2 diabetes patients inadequately controlled with metformin alone. The once daily regimen demonstrated a clear dose response with a similar HbA1c reduction to twice daily regimen. AVE0010 was also found to be associated with weight loss and reductions in postprandial glucose.

“The results of the once daily AVE0010 regimen are very promising and this new GLP-1 agonist has a potential to become an important addition to the treatment armamentarium for type 2 diabetes,” said Robert Ratner, from the MedStar Research Institute Washington DC, Principal Investigator of the dose-finding study.

About the Study

The dose-finding study involved 542 type 2 diabetes patients inadequately controlled on metformin monotherapy (1.6-1.9 g/day). In this double-blind study, patients were randomized to receive for 13 weeks, either AVE0010 subcutaneously at the doses of 5, 10, 20 and 30 µg once daily or twice daily, or placebo. The primary endpoint was change in HbA1c from baseline. Secondary endpoints included weight change and 2-hour post-prandial plasma glucose (PPG).

Baseline characteristics were similar among groups in terms of mean age (56 ±9 years), diabetes duration (6.6 ±5 years), HbA1c (7.5 ±0.6%) and Body Mass Index (31.9 ±4 kg/m²). Despite mildly elevated baseline HbA1c, the results of the study demonstrated a highly statistically significant dose response with a net decrease in mean HbA1c from baseline subtracted from placebo from -0.28 to -0.57% for once daily dosing and from -0.47 to -0.69% for twice daily dosing.

At the conclusion of the study, the percentages of patients with HbA1c <7% ranged from 47 to 69% for once daily dosing and from 51 to 77% for twice daily dosing compared to 32% for placebo.

AVE0010 was also associated with weight decreases ranging from –2 to –3.5 kg (5 and 30 µg once daily) and from –2.1 to –3.9 kg (5 and 30 µg twice daily) versus –1.9 kg with placebo. Decreases in mean 2-hour PPG ranged from –36 to –83 mg/dL in the AVE0010 groups versus –8 mg/dL with placebo.

In addition, few patients discontinued treatment due to adverse events (1.8-11.1% with once daily versus 1.8% with placebo).
Adverse events included transient dose-dependent nausea (from 7.3 to 33.3% with 5 µg once daily and 30 µg twice daily, respectively versus 4.6% with placebo). No cases of severe hypoglycemia were reported.

The Phase III clinical trial program for AVE0010 started in May 2008 and is planned to involve more than 3,800 patients.

**About sanofi-aventis Research & Development in Diabetes**

Building on our expertise and experience that resulted in a comprehensive set of innovative therapeutic solutions including Lantus® (insulin glargine [rDNA origin]) and Apidra® (insulin glulisine [rDNA origin]), our commitment to the treatment of diabetes leads us to constantly pioneer in this field. Today, together with academic institutions and healthcare professionals, sanofi aventis is a major contributor in the effort to reduce the burden of diabetes. The compounds in the sanofi-aventis portfolio target all stages of the disease, as well as diabetes risk factors, while at the same time offering relevant solutions for the co-morbidities associated with diabetes, in particular overweight.

**About sanofi-aventis**

Sanofi-aventis, a leading global pharmaceutical company, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions to improve the lives of everyone. Sanofi-aventis is listed in Paris (EURONEXT : SAN) and in New York (NYSE : SNY).

**Forward-looking statements sanofi-aventis**

This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements include product development, product potential projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives, intentions and expectations with respect to future events, operations, products and services, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words “expects,” “anticipates,” “believes,” “intends,” “estimates,” “plans” and similar expressions. Although sanofi-aventis’ management believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of sanofi-aventis, that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, future clinical data and analysis, including post marketing, decisions by regulatory authorities, such as the FDA or the EMEA, regarding whether and when to approve any drug, device or biological application that may be filed for any such product candidates as well as their decisions regarding labelling and other matters that could affect the availability or commercial potential of such product candidates, the absence of guarantee that the products candidates if approved will be commercially successful, the future approval and commercial success of therapeutic alternatives as well as those discussed or identified in the public filings with the SEC and the AMF made by sanofi-aventis, including those listed under “Risk Factors” and “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” in sanofi-aventis’ annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2007. Other than as required by applicable law, sanofi-aventis does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information or statements.

**Contacts:**

Sylvie Gabriel, R&D Communications
Tel : +33 6 07 95 91 52
sylvie.gabriel@sanofi-aventis.com